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AN expedition to southeast Arabia has been planned by the Danish Royal Geographical Society, the object being the mapping of parts of Oman and the studying of the ancient memorials and commercial prospects of the country.

A CABLEGRAM has been received at the Harvard College Observatory from Kiel, stating that Wolf's Periodic Comet was observed by Professor Max Wolf at Heidelberg, June 19, 1911, 4792 in.

R. A. $18^{\text{h}} 46^{\text{m}} 16^{\text{s}}$

Dec. $+ 13^{\circ} 28'$

The comet is visible in a large telescope.

THE second annual midsummer State Farmers Institute will be held at the University of Illinois on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 11, 12 and 13. The attendance at last summer's institute was about 2,500. Addresses to the general session will be given by the following:

Hon. J. K. Dickinson, secretary, State Board of Agriculture, on "Agricultural Advancement."

Professor J. H. Skinner, dean of the College of Agriculture, Purdue University, on "Rural Problems and Rural Progress."

Hon. B. F. Harris, president of the Illinois Bankers' Association, on "The Banker Farmer, his Influence on Agriculture."

Dr. Charles E. Marshall, Michigan Agricultural College, on "The Farmer and the Scientist."

Hon. W. E. Morse, assistant general manager, Chicago Northwestern R. R., on "Advantages of Closer Cooperation between the Railroads and the Farmer."

THE following geologic investigation is being carried on in Oklahoma: Professor D. W. Ohern, of the University of Oklahoma, and Mr. Carl D. Smith, of the U. S. Geological Survey, are conducting cooperative parties in the Vinita and Claremore quadrangles in the northeastern part of the state. Professor C. H. Taylor, of the University of Oklahoma, is studying the igneous rocks of the Wichita and Arbuckle Mountains. Professor J. W. Beede, of the University of Indiana, has a party in the northern part of the state and will endeavor to trace out the Pennsylvanian-Permian contact from the Kansas line to the

Arbuckle Mountains. Professor C. A. Reeds, of Bryn Mawr College, who has already spent four years in the Arbuckle Mountains, will continue his studies in the lower Paleozoic rocks of that region. The Ohern, Smith and Taylor parties are cooperative; being maintained by the U. S. Geological Survey and the Oklahoma Geological Survey; the Beede and Reeds parties are under the direction of the Oklahoma Geological Survey. The U. S. Geological Survey, the Oklahoma Geological Survey and the Oklahoma State Board of Agriculture are cooperating in the endeavor to ascertain whether or not potash or other soluble salts are present in the western part of the state. A number of deep wells are being drilled, under the direction of the state board of agriculture, in the Panhandle of Oklahoma, in the hope of finding artesian water. The federal Geological Survey and the Oklahoma Survey are paying the expenses of a man to collect samples at frequent intervals from these wells. These samples will be analyzed for potash or other fertilizer material. Mr. Chas. R. Eckes has charge of the work.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY has received gifts amounting to more than \$100,000, of which \$40,000 is for a lectureship in public affairs to be held by the Hon. George B. McClellan.

DR. ROBERT A. HARPER, professor of botany in the University of Wisconsin, has been elected Torrey professor of botany at Columbia University.

NEW appointments and promotions at the Johns Hopkins University are as follows: In the Philosophical Faculty: Harry F. Reid, Ph.D., now professor of geological physics, to be professor of dynamic geology and geography; John A. Anderson, Ph.D., now associate, to be associate professor of astronomy; Knight Dunlap, Ph.D., now associate, to be associate professor of psychology; J. Elliott Gilpin, Ph.D., now associate, to be associate professor of chemistry; William Kurrelmeyer, Ph.D., now associate, to be associate

professor of German; B. Franklin Lovelace, Ph.D., now of the University of Alabama, to be associate professor of chemistry; Samuel O. Mast, Ph.D., now of Goucher College, to be associate professor of zoology; August H. Pfund, Ph.D., now associate, to be associate professor of physics; Charles F. Meyer, A.B., now fellow, to be assistant in applied electricity; Chester N. Myers, Ph.D., to be assistant in chemistry. In the Medical Faculty: Thomas R. Boggs, M.D., now associate, to be associate professor of medicine; Charles D. Snyder, Ph.D., now associate, to be associate professor of physiology; Frank J. Sladen, M.D., now instructor, to be associate in medicine; William E. Burge, Ph.D., now assistant, to be instructor in physiology; Karl M. Wilson, M.D., now assistant, to be instructor in obstetrics; Solon A. Dodds, M.D., to be assistant in obstetrics; Eli K. Marshall, Jr., Ph.D., to be assistant in physiological chemistry; Isaac R. Pels, M.D., to be assistant in dermatology; Maxwell Ross, M.D., to be assistant in medicine.

FACULTY additions and promotions in Adelbert College and the College for Women of Western Reserve University have been made as follows: Harry William Springsteen, assistant professor of physics, to be associate professor of physics; Clinton Raymond Stauffer, Ph.D., associate professor of geology; James K. Whittemore, M.A., appointed assistant professor of mathematics; Walter Edward Sullivan, M.A., instructor in biology. Faculty promotions and appointments in the medical department were made as follows: George Washington Crile, Ph.D., M.D., formerly professor of clinical surgery, was appointed professor of surgery; Carl August Hamann, M.D., formerly professor of anatomy, was appointed professor of applied anatomy and clinical surgery; Davidson Black, M.B., was appointed associate in histology and embryology.

IN the University of Michigan Museum, Dr. A. G. Ruthven has been promoted to be assistant professor of zoology and head curator of the museum; Miss Crystal Thompson

has been made assistant in the museum. In the Department of Zoology, Dr. A. F. Shull, of Columbia University, has been made instructor in zoology, in place of Assistant Professor A. S. Pearse, who has become assistant professor of zoology in the University of the Philippines; Dr. George La Rue, of the University of Illinois, has been made instructor in zoology. Assistant Professor O. C. Glaser has been granted leave of absence during the first half of the next academic year.

AT Rutgers College instructors have been appointed as follows: F. F. Couch, M.E. (Lehigh), in mechanical engineering; Floyd E. Chidester, Ph.D. (Clark), in biology, and Harry R. Lewis, B.Sc. (Rhode Island), in dairy husbandry.

FRANK A. MANNY, of the education and extension departments of the Western State Normal School, Kalamazoo, Mich., has been appointed director of the training of teachers in the city of Baltimore.

THE trustees of the University of Pennsylvania at a meeting held on June 12, 1911, advanced Dr. John W. Harshberger from assistant professor of botany to professor of botany.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE DISEASES OF ECONOMIC PLANTS

THE recent review of "Diseases of Economic Plants" by Dr. W. A. Orton¹ contained statements which I feel impelled to controvert, not in justification of the book, but in order to place the facts in their proper bearing before the readers of SCIENCE, lest some not technically informed should be led into erroneous conclusions by misstatements *ex cathedra*.

Some of his criticisms are merely matters of personal opinion, as, for example, his views on the use of the termination "ose" in naming diseases. This method was first suggested several years ago in a committee report before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Section G, with Dr. Halsted as chairman. It has been used to

¹ SCIENCE, April 21, 1911, 621.